



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 25, 1998

S. 2257

A bill to reauthorize the National Historic Preservation Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 23, 1998*

SUMMARY

S. 2257 would extend through fiscal year 2004 annual deposits of \$150 million to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Authority for such deposits, which consist of receipts earned from oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf, expired at the end of fiscal year 1997. The National Park Service uses amounts appropriated from the HPF for grants to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to state, local, and tribal governments, and to nonprofit and other organizations. The bill also would extend through fiscal year 2004 the authorization of \$4 million a year for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This sum is currently authorized to be appropriated (from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury) through fiscal year 2000.

Assuming appropriation of the amounts deposited into the HPF each year, and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, CBO estimates that enacting S. 2257 would result in additional discretionary spending of \$570 million over the 1999-2003 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 2257 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Because state, local, and tribal governments receive grants from the Historic Preservation Fund, the bill would permit future funding for state, local, and tribal historic preservation projects.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The \$150 million to be deposited into the HPF under S. 2257 is the same amount that was deposited to the fund annually from 1980 through 1997, but is significantly higher than the

\$30 million to \$50 million generally appropriated (from the HPF) for each year. In recent years, annual appropriations for the advisory council have been about \$3 million. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2257 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	44	4	4	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	44	26	12	2	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	150	150	154	154	154
Estimated Outlays	0	40	85	140	145	160
Spending Under S. 2257						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level	44	154	154	154	154	154
Estimated Outlays	44	66	97	142	145	160

a. The 1998 level includes \$41 million appropriated from the HPF and \$3 million appropriated for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The 1999 and 2000 levels are the amounts authorized under current law for appropriation to the council.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts deposited into the HPF or authorized for the advisory council under S. 2257 would be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlay estimates are based on historical spending patterns for council activities and HPF programs. We adjusted the observed outlay rates for the purposes of projecting future HPF outlays because the higher appropriations assumed in this estimate—relative to historical appropriation levels—would likely cause some delays in finding matching shares for certain grants. The table does not include any potential spending from amounts deposited to the HPF in the past that have not yet been appropriated. Such funds—about \$2.3 billion—will remain available for appropriation under existing law even in the absence of legislation.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 2257 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. Because state, local, and tribal governments receive grants from the Historic Preservation Fund, the bill would permit future funding for state, local, and tribal historic preservation projects.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

S. 2257 contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On April 7, 1998, CBO prepared an estimate for H.R. 1522, a bill to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 25, 1998. The authorization levels contained in the two bills are identical, as are the two estimates.

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